

# The GW Hatchet

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## What's inside

## New Student Orientation focused on including families, building connections



ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

SA President SJ Matthews, an orientation leader, said she will gather feedback from students and their families on the University's first-ever programming.

**LIZZIE MINTZ**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Incoming students will participate in a first-of-its-kind orientation this week focused on building connections between transfer and first-year students.

Students will attend New Student Orientation starting the week before classes for the first time in history, replacing Colonial Inauguration, during which incoming students completed orientation over select weekends in June and August. Student leaders and officials who planned orientation said the switch allows incoming students to build stronger connections through social programming – like a movie night – earlier in the year and increases family participation in students' college transitions.

Between Aug. 21 and 25, first-year and transfer students, parents and siblings can participate in programming like a "Kickoff Event," meetings with academic advisers, a

financial aid "open house" and internship information sessions, according to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions' webpage.

First-year students will attend orientation from Wednesday to Sunday this week, while programming for transfer students is scheduled on Thursday and Friday. Students received information on their student portal and in emails about the week's events after registering for orientation, according to the webpage.

First-year and transfer students and families, can learn more about orientation and other topics – like dining and residence halls – in different handbooks called the "Buff and Blue Book," the webpage states.

### Easing students' academic transitions

Benjamin Toll, the interim dean of undergraduate admissions, said orientation will be a "transitional moment" and allow students to make one less trip to campus before school starts, which can be a financial burden

for families. Toll said the change will give students a "stronger foundational experience" during their transition to GW.

"We hope it will encourage students' emotional and social development and lead to stronger relationships among students as well as with faculty and staff," he said in an email.

Toll said incoming students participated in virtual class registration and group advising sessions and registered for classes on specific days between July 31 and Aug. 6. Students will speak individually with advisers during orientation and spend Friday afternoon with faculty and peer mentors to learn more about the University's academic resources, he said.

### Increasing family participation

Parents previously attended in-person "GW 101" sessions during orientation that covered topics like dining and tuition costs. But in 2017 GW eliminated the pro-

gramming, added online parent orientation and created more sessions for students that covered academic topics, like course registration.

This year's orientation will include in-person programming for families that focuses on topics like how to be involved in students' academic advising and how to support students living at GW.

"Family members play an important and vital role in the student's college experience," Toll said. "We want to provide them with knowledge and resources to be our partners in supporting our students."

### Student leader involvement

Student Association President SJ Matthews, who will serve as an orientation leader, said leaders participated in two days of training in May and two to three more days of training last week.

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## Open residence hall tap access will increase need for security: officials

**LIA DEGROOT**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As the University opens residence hall tap access to any undergraduate student, officials said they are evaluating residence hall security measures.

Officials said the move, which builds on the pilot program implemented for freshmen in January, will allow undergraduate students to more easily connect with one another in residence halls but may require an increased need for safety measures. Security experts said expanding tap access to all residence halls should be met with additional security measures, like increased front desk security, to ensure that only students are entering the halls.

Colette Coleman, the senior associate dean of students, said students can tap into any residence hall using GWorld, but only registered residents can unlock their individual rooms. Coleman said the system will allow students to host social events involving multiple residence halls because moving between buildings is less cumbersome.

"The continuation of this exciting initiative will continue the goals of enhancing our residential communities by allowing students to have greater opportunity to connect with peers who live in other halls," Coleman said in an email.

She said the majority of students who used the pilot program last semester enjoyed the freedom to move between halls on their own, but some students voiced concerns to officials that the increased access could contribute to an uptick in "student behavioral issues."

Mary Paradis, the interim chief of police, said the GW Police Department will adjust the number of student access monitors, who regulate tap-ins, and other security personnel stationed at each residence hall based on feedback from students, faculty and staff.

"We will compare the effectiveness of the new

system to last year when a different plan was in place," she said.

GW currently employs 150 to 200 student access monitors each year, but The Hatchet reported in November that student access monitors were not present in Amsterdam and South halls more than 95 percent of the time.

Student Association President SJ Matthews said she worked with the University to implement the new tap access system while serving as Residence Hall Association president last academic year and voiced approval for the change during her campaign for SA president.

"I also encouraged inter-hall programming between the first year halls during the pilot program so students could build community with people who lived in different residence halls," she said in an email.

Of GW's 12 peer schools, Georgetown, Wake Forest and New York universities indicate on their websites that they employ similar open tap access systems. Georgetown and Wake Forest universities prohibit students from entering other residence halls after midnight.

Security experts said officials should up the number of student access monitors at buildings and limit the hours during which students can access any residence hall to meet the increased security demand.

Gary Sigrist – the chief executive officer and president of the security company Safeguard Risk Solutions, which provides security products and services for U.S. universities and public schools – said that because the University's key card system tracks which buildings each student enters, an open tap access system is not a large security risk. Sigrist said using metal keys in an open tap system instead of electronic cards could pose

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## Chatbot provides users with instant answers to technology questions

**AMY LIU**  
STAFF WRITER

A newly debuted chatbot will give students answers to common questions and help them navigate GW resources like Xfinity On Campus and FixIt.

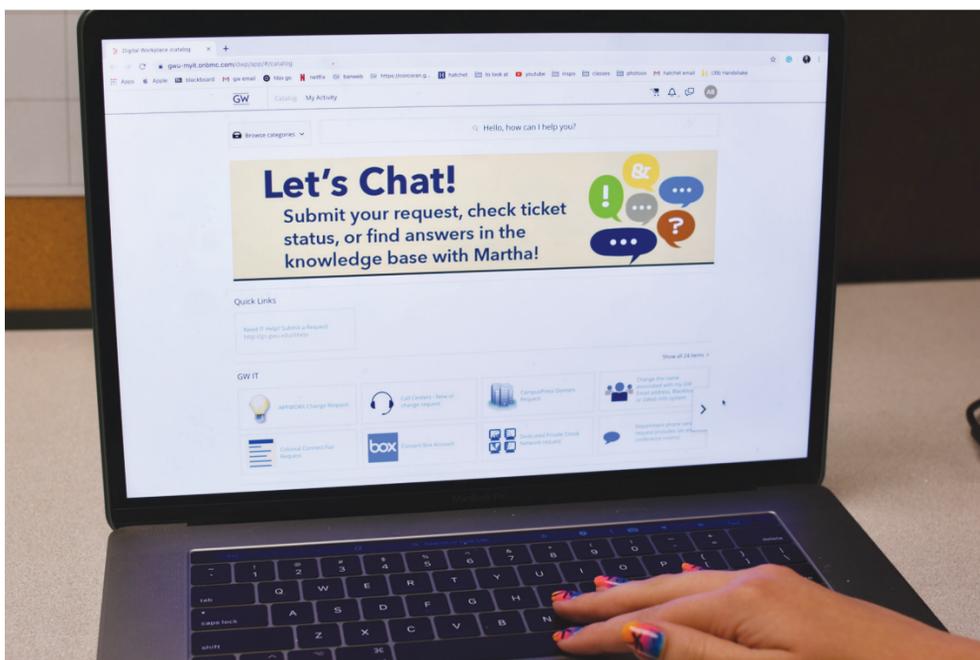
Officials launched MARTHA last week ahead of move-in and New Student Orientation to help students glean information, submit repair requests, obtain answers to frequently asked questions and receive "step-by-step instructional support" for problems they encounter. Artificial intelligence and higher education experts said the chatbot will provide instant access to information and meet the demand for information at all hours of the day.

Administrators piloted an initial version of MARTHA last September, which allowed students to quickly access information about simple tasks, like how to reset Net-ID passwords. Chief Information Officer Loretta Early said the bot conducted more than 4,500 conversations during the pilot, and 89 percent of respondents to a follow-up survey indicated they wanted the service to become permanent.

Early said based on student feedback, officials added functionality to MARTHA, including an auto-fill feature, the ability to connect a user to an IT employee during business hours and the ability to answer questions related to the Division of Operations, the Division of Safety and Security and the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

"The chatbot is trained to understand what a user wants in their own words," Early said in an email. "Simply, ask a question or state a request just like you would to a live person on the phone or in-person."

She said the chatbot can be used on Windows and Mac computers, as well as iPhones, iPads and Android smartphones. Users can text MARTHA after registering their mobile



ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

After a monthlong test run last September, officials launched a 24/7 chatbot to answer questions about technology related to the Division of Operations, the Division of Safety and Security and the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

phone numbers on the desktop website.

Early added that the bot will perform better as it learns and adapts to users' needs through AI.

"With further development, MARTHA could grow to direct students to their next class, help place an order for service in residence hall rooms or renew a library book," Early said. "The possibilities afforded to us through AI are very exciting."

GW is the first of its 12 peer schools to launch a chatbot to assist students, but experts in AI and higher education say chatbots are becoming increasingly common at universities as administrators realize its potential.

Phil Ventimiglia, the chief innovation officer at Georgia State University, said chatbots are capable of immediately answering students' questions, many of which are substantially similar.

"Chatbots allow the University to increase student engagement at scale," he said in an email. "Students can ask a chatbot questions at any time of day and receive a response in a matter of seconds."

Ventimiglia added that the chatbot could reduce "summer melt" – a phenomenon where students accept offers of admission but fail to show up for fall enrollment – by curbing pre-college stressors during the summer that frustrate incoming

students.

He said that although chatbots enable more efficient communication, they may also force administrators to rearrange staff resources to better assist students and faculty.

"Chatbots do replace the need for support staff for students," he said. "However, this frees up the university staff to answer and address the most difficult issues."

Jason Andracki, the associate director of marketing and communications at Allegheny College, said that while chatbots help incoming students garner information about their institution at any time of the day, they remove human interaction and can cause students to rely more

heavily on technology.

"We don't want to tie students to their phones more than they already are," he said in an email. "But we also want to connect with them where they are."

Mark McNasby – the chief executive officer at Ivy, a chatbot development company – said that while chatbots can boost student engagement and access to resources, universities must ensure that chatbots are able to answer all types of questions.

McNasby said almost 40 percent of questions asked to chatbots developed for use in a single department are outside of the bot's knowledge domain. He said that when a department-specific chatbot cannot answer a question, the department's staff may feed partial or inaccurate information to the bot in an effort to answer the question going forward, passing on misinformation to current and prospective students.

"It's critical that schools deploy bots across the entire institution," he said in an email. "You can't use a bot in the admissions office that can't answer financial aid questions."

GW's Office of Student Financial Assistance announced in January that it would debut a 24/7 chat service this fall to provide assistance to students and families. MARTHA, an IT division project, is not currently able to answer questions related to financial aid, according to the chatbot's website.

McNasby said officials struggle to match demand from students needing guidance and support, especially during evenings and weekends. He said chatbots can help address that demand during all hours of the day.

"The short-term goal is to increase student engagement and access to resources," he said in an email. "Longer term, higher education institutions hope that chatbot technology will improve student enrollment, retention, and graduation success rates."

# News

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## CRIME LOG

### STALKING

Off Campus  
Multiple – Multiple  
Open Case

A student reported that his ex-girlfriend and her father stalked him on social media and email.

**Case open**

### ATTEMPTED FRAUD

Gelman Library  
8/7/2019 – 1:30 p.m.  
Closed Case

A student reported that she received a fraudulent phone call from an out-of-country phone number requesting money.

**Case closed**

### CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Various Locations  
Multiple – Multiple  
Open Case

A male summer resident reported fraudulent charges posted to multiple credit cards. The man said he noticed that the charges were not his while checking his bank statement.

**Case open**

### HARASSING TELEPHONE CALLS

Duques Hall  
Multiple – Multiple  
Open Case

A staff member reported that he received harassing telephone calls while he was working in the finance department in Duques Hall.

**Case open**

### TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, HIT AND RUN

Lerner Health and Wellness Center  
(Garage)  
8/8/2019 – 1:30 p.m.  
Open Case

A male staff member reported that a vehicle struck his vehicle in the parking garage of the Lerner Health and Wellness Center.

**Case open**

### PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS

600 Block of 21st Street NW  
8/10/2019 – 4:12 a.m.  
Closed Case

GW Police Department officers responded to the 600 block of 21st Street NW for a report of an intoxicated female. EMeRG workers arrived on scene and medically evaluated the woman, an alumna. She was transported to the GW Hospital emergency room for further treatment.

**Referred to the Office of Enrollment and the Student Experience**

—Compiled by Lia DeGroot

# Number of political science majors increases 45 percent over past five years

CIARA REGAN &  
JARED GANS

STAFF WRITERS

The number of undergraduates majoring in political science has reached its highest point in at least 10 years.

Political science majors have steadily increased over the past five years, rising more than 45 percent since 2014, according to institutional data. Higher education experts said the rising number of political science majors could boost the department's reputation relative to other schools' political science departments and push officials to increase the amount of financial support and number of faculty positions in the department.

Bruce Dickson, the chair of the political science department, said the University's location in the nation's capital and the expertise of the department's faculty incentivizes undergraduates to study the subject.

He said officials promote GW's location to prospective students as one of the University's "comparative advantages," attempting to lure potential students. Dickson added that GW's political science faculty also helps draw students to the major by winning awards for teaching and conducting research.

"GW is a great place to study politics, for both students and faculty," he said in an email.

Political science has consistently ranked as the most popular major among undergraduates at GW for at least the past 10 years, according to institutional data. Last year,

about 480 undergraduates majored in political science, making it the third-most-popular undergraduate major after business and international affairs.

Dickson said the current political climate has inspired more prospective and current students to get involved with politics, which might be a contributing factor to the higher

and activism.

Daniel Aldrich, a professor of political science at Northeastern University, said more students are becoming political science majors because political issues that directly impact college students are moving toward the forefront of the political arena.

"Whether debating free college or the limits of Pell

Grants or trade wars, which impact prices of their electronics, politics' impact is far more obvious in 2019," he said in an email.

**"Whether debating free college or the limits of Pell Grants or trade wars, which impact prices of their electronics, politics' impact is far more obvious in 2019."**

DANIEL ALDRICH

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR AT NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

number of majors.

He added that the department's biggest challenge in light of increasing interest in political science is offering enough classes to meet demand from students, adding that the department recently capped political science classes at 39 students "to be more in line with other departments." Dickson said the department has not hired any new professors directly as a result of the increase, but professors are continuously replaced when a faculty member leaves GW or retires.

Political science experts said the rise in the number of political science majors at GW is part of a nationwide trend over the past few years as universities receive a greater proportion of prospective students interested in politics

and activism.

Daniel Aldrich, a professor of political science at Northeastern University, said more students are becoming political science majors because political issues that directly impact college students are moving toward the forefront of the political arena.

"Whether debating free college or the limits of Pell Grants or trade wars, which impact prices of their electronics, politics' impact is far more obvious in 2019," he said in an email.

Brian Taylor, the chair of the political science department at Syracuse University, one of GW's peer schools, said the number of students majoring in po-

litical science at his institution has increased by about 15 percent in the past two years. He said the election of President Donald Trump in 2016 – which ushered in an increasingly partisan environment in the country – could be a driving factor in rising interest in the major.

"I think most people assume it's the Trump effect, but I haven't seen any data on that," Taylor said. "I assume it's one of the main things driving interest in the major."

He said an increase in enrollment may cause officials to hire more faculty over an extended period of time. Taylor did not specify if the increase could result in other benefits for the department.

"Deans who are paying attention to where enrollment is taking place notice when the number of credit hours assigned to a department rise, and over time, that may lead to more faculty positions," he said. Taylor added that it is difficult to determine whether the trend of the previous few years will continue and if the major will become more popular in the future. He said there is a limit on the number of majors because students remain passionate about other topics even if they have become more interested in politics.

"The trend in the last few years has been up, but there has to be a natural ceiling at which it couldn't go that much higher," he said. "I don't know when we're going to hit that ceiling or if we've hit it yet."

—Cristina Cestone contributed reporting.



Bruce Dickson, the chair of the political science department, said the University's location in the nation's capital attracts politically active students interested in studying the subject.

ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

# Student orientation leaders to hold movie night on Vern, offer Foggy Bottom Campus tours

From Page 1

Matthews said Jordan West, the director for diversity and inclusion education, held a bias training workshop for orientation leaders. Orientation coordinators sent leaders information about resources like student health insurance, accessing the Colonial Health Center and the student code of conduct so leaders could answer ques-

tions from students during orientation.

"We want to make sure we're not just giving it to them on a piece of paper," she said. "We want to make sure everyone is able to explain it, so when people will inevitably have questions, it is really easy to just make sure they know everything they possibly need to know."

Matthews said leaders will give brief campus tours and attend differ-

ent social and academic programs with groups of 30 to 40 students. She said she will lead a group of 32 Thurston Hall residents.

Matthews added that during orientation, she will note questions from students or parents that she does not have immediate answers to and work to address concerns she hears while serving as SA president.

"I am excited to be in an orientation leader role,

but in the back of my head, I'll always be thinking, 'How can we make your lives better as the SA?' and 'What do you say right now that I know we can just get done and make it just so much better for you?'" Matthews said.

Residence Hall Association President Trinity Diaz said the RHA and orientation leaders will host a movie night – featuring "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" – on the Mount Ver-

non Campus this Thursday to help incoming students meet one another and RHA leaders.

"The Mount Vernon Campus has our biggest freshman presence between all of the residence halls," she said. "There are six different residence halls on campus that will be represented by RHA, and we just want to make sure that we can start talking to those students as soon as possible."

Diaz said RHA members worked with Kendra Scott, the director of New Student Orientation, and orientation coordinators to plan the movie night. RHA members will hand out popcorn and cotton candy during the event, she said.

"It is really just going to be a moment for students to get together outside on the Vern, on the nice summer night, to just get together and meet each other for the first time," she said."

# GW should add cameras, extra security personnel to residence halls: experts

From Page 1

"If you lose your key, I can't deactivate that key, and so you could have a student running around with the key and you never know what building that student went in because there's no electronic access," he said.

Sigrist said the University could add security cameras to each residence hall instead of increasing

the number of student access monitors stationed at each building to address safety concerns brought on by the open tapping system. He said employing a few people to monitor cameras at each hall's entrance is a cost-effective alternative to stationing more student access monitors at each residence hall.

The Hatchet found that student access monitors are often absent from residence halls located in

busier areas of campus.

"Cameras are better than people," he said. "The only reason for that is, how much are you willing to have your tuition go up to cover to pay for somebody to be there?"

Sigrist said that because the main culprits of property crimes – which constitute the majority of crimes that occur on or near campus – are not students, adding all-resident tap access won't jeopardize students' safety

because only students can enter residence halls. He said the University may vet admitted students to ensure they don't pose large risks to other students.

Michael Colegrove, the CEO and president of the security company Campus Safety Solutions, said officials should limit the times during which any student can access any residence hall to ensure students are accounted for at night.

Colegrove said officials could implement additional security measures, like adding a system to check students' fingerprints to confirm their identities, in addition to increasing student access monitors' presence at residence halls. He said the fingerprint would add another level of security to protect against stolen or lost identification cards.

Nine thefts occurred in residence halls over

the summer, according to crime reports. Two residence halls – District and Shenkman – have food courts that can be accessed without using GWorld.

"It is opening up another avenue of access that normally wouldn't be there, so I'm sure over time there will be some instances of situations where the wrong people are in the wrong place at the wrong time," Colegrove said.

# Particulate pollution responsible for worldwide disease rates: study

SHANNON MALLARD  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A study provides the first-ever estimate of how air pollution affects global rates of heart and lung disease in at least 250 urban cities.

Susan Anenberg, an associate professor of occupational and environmental health who led the study, found that small air particles, labeled PM 2.5, caused 13 to 125 deaths per 100,000 residents in urban cities like D.C. and Shanghai. Pollution experts said findings from studies that investigate links between pollution and health risks can influence policymakers to regulate the underlying causes of particulate pollution, traffic and industrial production.

"The findings from this study suggest that policymakers can help not only clean the air, but keep people healthy and reduce greenhouse gases, by supporting initiatives that transition society away from fossil fuel use," Anenberg said in a public health school release.

Ploy Achakulwisut, a staff scientist at the Stockholm Environmental Institute and a former postdoctoral scientist at GW who worked on the study, said particulate pollution is a leading cause of death worldwide. She said countries must act to decrease PM 2.5 levels because the number of people affected by particulate pollution will increase as populations grow.

"Tackling urban air pollution is high on the global sustainable development and health agendas," Achakulwisut said.

She said air in 21 of the 250 cities studied contained PM 2.5 levels below World Health Organization guidelines, and the study found that 104 cities exceeded safe limits for PM 2.5 levels.

Achakulwisut said researchers found that rates of PM 2.5 ex-



Susan Anenberg, an associate professor of occupational and environmental health, conducted a study about how air pollution affects global health rates.

posure are low in 82 high-income cities, including D.C., but wealthy urban areas tend to boast higher "consumption-based" carbon footprints. She said that developed countries place limits on the emission of harmful gases, relocate industrial power plants outside of cities and outsource manufacturing enterprises to other countries to reduce air pollution.

Achakulwisut said the research team received funding from the University and the NASA Health and Air Quality Applied Science Team – an organization that uses satellite data to conduct research on how air pollution affects health.

Daven Henze, an associate professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Colo-

rado Boulder who worked on the study, said a "weak" correlation exists between rates of carbon dioxide emission and negative health effects of PM 2.5. He said some cities reduce air pollutants using strategies that do not also reduce energy and fuel consumption, which contributes to rising levels of CO2 emissions.

He added that cities faced with high PM 2.5 levels can decrease carbon consumption to reduce concentrations of fine particulate matter and combat climate change.

"This also suggests that in cities that still have high air pollution health burdens, there are opportunities to address both air pollution and climate challenges through low-carbon develop-

ment," he said.

Henze said the research team analyzed NASA satellite data to estimate atmospheric PM 2.5 levels. He said the team consulted population distributions, mortality rates and economic indicators to estimate the number of premature deaths attributable to PM pollution.

Pollution experts said that small air particles, also known as fine particulate matter, can negatively affect urban residents' lung, heart and circulatory health, and that policymakers must enact regulations to reduce levels of particulate pollution.

Marissa Brown, an acting assistant professor of environmental and occupational health sciences at the University of Washington, said combustion re-

actions in vehicles, wildfires and smokestacks emit disease-causing particles.

Brown said fine particulate matter is small enough to stick in the lungs and diffuse into the bloodstream and is more harmful to inhale than larger particles in the air, like dust. She said the particles can cause illnesses like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer and heart attacks and may contribute to gastrointestinal harm and liver disease.

"It's a combination of the fact that everyone is exposed to them in one way or another, and also that they have the most potential to exert more serious health effects," Brown said.

Brown added that policymakers can encourage drivers to car-pool or use public transportation to cut down on particulate air pollution because traffic-related pollution is a major contributor to particulate pollution in urban environments.

"A lot of things we do to prevent climate change can also mitigate PM exposure," she said.

Patrick O'Shaughnessy, a professor of occupational and environmental health at the University of Iowa, said residents in urban cities and areas with mass industrial production – where particulate pollutants from cars and factories are common – are likely to suffer adverse health effects.

O'Shaughnessy added that water pollution is isolated to affected bodies of water because people don't have to come into contact with the water. But particulate pollution is far more difficult to avoid because residents in areas with high levels of PM 2.5 have no choice but to breathe polluted air, he said.

"We can't stop breathing the air we're supposed to breathe," O'Shaughnessy said.

—Ed Prestera contributed reporting.

# Administrative hires and replacements this summer, explained

ZACH SCHONFELD  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Since students left campus for the summer, several of GW's top administrators departed the University, and a slate of new individuals have taken over key posts.

Former Senior Vice Provost for Enrollment and the Student Experience Laurie Koehler and former Dean of Admissions Costas Solomou vacated the student affairs office, members of the Board of Trustees elected new leadership, a new dean arrived last week and officials created new positions to manage the University's finances and human resources.

In case you've missed the announcements this summer, here is a list of who is leaving and joining the ranks of administrators:

## Student affairs and enrollment

Koehler stepped down Aug. 7 to serve as the vice president for marketing and enrollment strategy at Ithaca College.

At GW, Koehler oversaw the restructuring of the student affairs and enrollment divisions and headed an overhaul of the financial aid office, pairing students with a financial aid adviser and launching a council for students to advise officials about financial aid concerns. Soon after Koehler arrived at the University, her office came under fire in 2013 for falsely claiming it was need-blind for admissions.

Koehler helped shift the University to a test-optional admissions policy starting in 2015, contributing to a spike in applications for the following three years before falling this spring.

Ed Gillis, the former dean of enrollment management at the University of Miami, took over as interim vice provost for enrollment management on Aug. 6.

Solomou, the former dean of admissions, left GW in August to serve as the vice president for enrollment at the State University of New York at Geneseo. The admissions rate has increased each year since Solomou assumed the post until this year, when it dipped about 1 percentage point.

Under Koehler's and Solomou's tenures, the admissions department aimed to attract a more diverse student body, undertaking several recruitment trips to target students from historically marginalized and international communities. Last

academic year, the undergraduate student population was the University's most diverse in recent memory.

Ben Toll, who arrived at GW in February 2012 and serves as the director of recruitment and outreach, became the interim admissions dean.

## Finances and human resources

The Board of Trustees elected Grace Speights in May to serve as the board's first woman and African American head beginning June 1. Nelson Carbonell, the board's former chair, stepped down from the board at the end of his six-year term and now serves on the board of the GW Medical Faculty Associates.

During his tenure, Carbonell increased the student presence on board committees and task forces and voted to approve a free 18th credit for students following a referendum showing broad support for the change. Trustees also upped the number of dining dollars allocated to students for three consecutive years to address food insecurity concerns.

Carbonell also helped create a University-wide tenure committee based on faculty feedback and reduced the size of the board from more than 40 members to about 20.

Officials created the post of chief people officer in March as part of University President Thomas LeBlanc's strategic initiative to improve GW's institutional culture. A culture assessment conducted last year with the help of the Disney Institute pinpointed poor communication and service culture as top issues among employees.

In July, officials named Dana Bradley, Northwestern University's associate vice president for human resources, to the position. Bradley, who starts Sept. 3, will lead payroll, compensation and benefits as well as Human Resource Management and Development's recruitment, performance management and professional development functions.

When Bradley joins GW next month, she will be the first permanent head of the human resources department in more than three years. The University is the first of its peer institutions to hire a chief people officer.

Patricia Carocci, the former director of advancement at The Spence School, a private girls' high school, joined the University as the senior associate vice president for alumni relations and annual



Former Senior Vice Provost for Enrollment and the Student Experience Laurie Koehler and Provost Forrest Maltzman, among a handful of officials, have announced their intention to resign or have left GW.

giving July 22. The alumni relations position had been vacant for nearly six months after Matthew Mantra left GW in February.

Carocci oversees the recently established GW Alumni Association, which is conducting an alumni listening tour through mid-September to guide its operations.

Officials hired Jared Abramson as GW's inaugural vice president of financial planning and operations July 1 to head the University's strategic financial planning, budgeting, financial forecasting and analysis. He comes to GW after a more than 15-year career in higher education and health care financial administration, most recently at the University of Miami.

## Academics

As Provost Forrest Maltzman prepares to step down from his post once a replacement is found, searches for multiple deans and directors of GW's schools and colleges are underway.

Officials named Kym Ryce, the director of the museum studies program, as the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design's interim director effective July 12. Sanjit Sethi, appointed in 2015 to be Corcoran's first director, left his post in July to become president of the Minneapolis

College of Art and Design.

Officials have not publicly announced a search for a permanent Corcoran director.

John Lach – a professor of electrical and computer engineering and the former engineering director of cross-cutting initiatives at the University of Virginia –

became the new dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science Thursday, filling a vacancy created by David Dolling's departure last August. Officials said they sought a candidate who could improve the school's undergraduate gender balance, boost faculty retention and work with federal

agencies to increase research grants.

Officials also named Christopher Bracey as the law school's interim dean after former law school Dean Blake Morant vacated the position at the end of last academic year. A search for a permanent dean is underway.

## IN BRIEF

### New LSPA course on self-care open to students

Students interested in self-care may enroll in an experimental Lifestyle, Sport and Physical Activity course offered for the first time this semester.

LSPA office staff announced to students in an email Friday that two sections of LSPA 2001, Personal Growth Through Self-Care, will be offered once a week this semester. Students who enroll in the class will learn "the concepts, principles, tools and strategies" of self-care and design a "personal development plan" that includes individual goals, according to the email.

"This course will provide you with the opportunity to evaluate your current lifestyle habits and identify areas for personal growth within the '8 Dimensions of Wellness' with an emphasis on learning and applying skills for both stress-management and self-regulation," the email states.

Two adjunct professors, Claudia Cavazza and Liz Greenlaw, designed the course and will teach the two sections, according to the email. The pair began designing the one-credit course after receiving feedback from students in other LSPA classes.

"The goal was to create something useful and of practical application in all areas of your life, so they combined personalized life and goal coaching strategies with experiential tools and techniques to implement lifestyle changes, increase mental resilience and manage stress," the email states.

The class will have a "very small cap" because of its "uniqueness" and personalized attention given to each student, the email states.

—Jared Gans

# Medical school debuts leadership-focused health sciences program

SHANNON MALLARD  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Officials in the medical school will launch a leadership-focused doctoral health sciences program in fall 2020.

The Leadership in Clinical Practice and Education program will teach students how to improve clinical and educational organizations by designing, implementing and leading new health care programs. Joyce Maring – the program director and chair of the Department of Health, Human Function and Rehabilitation Sciences – said the curriculum will teach doctoral graduates to evaluate and solve administrative issues throughout their course of study and in the workplace.

“This program is ideally situated to prepare graduates to become leaders by enabling them to address the complex demands of the current healthcare environment,” Maring said in an email.

University spokeswoman Lisa Anderson said the application is open until Nov. 1, and students will matriculate into the program next spring. All credentialed health care professionals and educators with a master’s degree and at least one year of working experience in their field are eligible to apply for the program, which is designed for people working in several health care careers, like occupational therapists,



COURTESY OF JOYCE MARING  
Credentialed health care professionals and educators with a master’s degree and at least one year of working experience are eligible to apply for a medical school leadership program next fall.

nurses, speech pathologists and physicians.

Maring said she and a task force of “experienced educators” developed the program with support from Reamer Bushardt, the senior associate dean of health sciences. She said the health sciences curriculum committee, medical school executive committee and the Council of Deans reviewed the curriculum once completed.

Officials designed the program to teach students “advanced and evolving skills” needed to serve as effective leaders in clinical health care practices and

in educational institutions, Maring said. The 48-credit program will primarily be taught online and takes a year to complete if pursued full-time, according to a release on the medical school website.

She added that the program focuses on developing four skills – designing and evaluating clinical and educational programs, leading inter-professional teams, identifying “knowledge and practice gaps” in clinical practice and education, and conducting “action-oriented” research to solve health care issues. Graduates will

eventually conduct research on how to improve clinical and educational programs, Maring said.

“School officials, and especially the leadership in health sciences, determined a need to enhance leadership competencies in health professionals whether that be in the clinical or academic environment,” Maring said.

She added that officials will accept students into the program on a semester basis. She expects 10 students to enroll in the spring, she said.

Health care leadership experts said leadership programs give students and

professionals the management skills necessary to advance to higher positions in clinical practices and educational institutions.

Nancy Spector, the co-director of the executive leadership in academic medicine program at Drexel University, said more medical schools now offer similar training programs because students have expressed interest in improving their leadership skills to qualify for positions at medical organizations.

Spector said health care professionals should participate in leadership training throughout their careers because they can apply different leadership skills – like knowing how to lead interdisciplinary teams or manage hospital finances – in higher-level roles.

“If you learn basic skills early on, those are foundational and you’ll be able to build on those skills over time,” she said.

Spector said women who participate in leadership trainings can gain the skills necessary to ascend into higher leadership positions in health care practice and education, where she said women are typically underrepresented.

She said women need to find balance between “assertive” and “nurturing” styles of leadership to become effective health care leaders because women who display “aggressive” leadership are viewed less positively by

their male counterparts.

“There’s been a lot of attention over the years towards women in leadership training, because there is not gender equity in leadership levels within health care systems or in the medical system,” she said.

Brian Zink, the co-director of the leadership development program at the University of Michigan, said leadership programs can serve as a “vaccine against burnout” for people working in health care fields. Zink said leadership programs teach health care professionals how to persevere when frustrated by “system-level” problems, like health care insurance regulations, impede patient care and education.

“Leadership training gives you that bigger picture of what’s going on in the world and it gives you some tools to try to ride through hard times and to just have a deeper perspective,” he said.

Sunita Mutha, the director of the Healthforce Center at the University of California, San Francisco, said that all students who participate in health care-oriented leadership programs should reflect on their strengths and weaknesses as leaders to improve their leadership skills.

“There’s a self-awareness that you need to improve and grow to do well, and that’s regardless of whether you’re a student or someone else,” Mutha said.

## SA leaders use summer break to gain momentum on spring projects

LIZZIE MINTZ  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Student Association leaders spent summer break gaining momentum on projects the organization began last year.

Leaders said they spent the summer working with students and officials to continue projects or goals that the organization’s members advocated for last semester, like revamping student spaces, switching GW’s Colonials nickname and pushing for more graduate student representation.

SA President SJ Matthews said she and SA Executive Vice President Amy Martin have been in talks with Division of Operations officials this summer about revamping student spaces like Anniversary Park and the Marvin Center third floor terrace. Martin said officials are currently removing overgrown trees and expanding the patio in Anniversary Park, which sits on F Street between 21st and 22nd streets.

“When students go in there, they are going to feel like it was made better for them and feel more welcome, instead of being on dirt and old overgrown trees hanging over you,” Matthews said. “It is going to a nice open area, a nice open space for events.”

Matthews added that she and Martin also helped redesign the Marvin Center’s third floor terrace, which will be open in three to four weeks, with Adirondack sectional couches. The SA has been advocating for officials to build up the third floor terrace for student use since at least 2013.

Martin said the SA wanted to be involved in terrace renovations because the space is rarely used. She said the SA will hold an event in the space

during Welcome Week and encourage other student organizations to use the area for its own events.

“It is a nice little outdoor space that just doesn’t get used that often,” Martin said. “So we’re hoping this will change that.”

SA Sen. André Gonzales, CCAS-U and the SA senate pro-tempore, said he met with officials and spoke with students who are advocating to change the University’s Colonials nickname. Gonzales co-sponsored a resolution that placed a referendum about nixing the name on the SA’s election ballot in March, which passed with more than half of students voting in favor of the change.

“How do we honor what students are saying with this referendum, and how do we make sure that we are including all of these stakeholders in these discussions so that we can really have some tangible actions and show that students are being heard on this campus?” he said.

Gonzales said he and other student leaders met with officials from the athletic department and the Office of Alumni Relations over the summer to continue conversations about students’ efforts to change the nickname. He said that since the referendum passed, the University has still not publicly acknowledged the vote.

He did not specify who the representatives were and declined to comment about what the conversations entailed.

Gonzales said he familiarized himself with the SA’s constitution, charter and bylaws to better answer SA members’ questions this year. He said that he is responsible for answering questions about the governing documents as

the senate’s pro-tempore.

Gonzales said he asked other SA members about what they would change about the governing documents, but he focused on developing his own opinions because he will be in charge of interpreting the documents.

“As pro-tempore, it’s also my job to be that referee to say, ‘This is how the constitution or the bylaws read, here’s how I interpret it and here’s how we need to honor it,’” he said.

SA Sen. AJ Link, Law-G, said he worked with other members of the SA this summer to gather and distribute flyers to students with contact information for the organization’s two law school senators and the vice president of graduate policy at the law school’s orientation, which took place last week.

Link said the flyers included a link to the SA’s website that details information about topics like graduate student housing, meal deals and information about specific graduate schools.

Link filed a complaint with the Student Court in April claiming the SA allegedly failed to adequately represent graduate students because the organization allotted undergraduate students more senate seats than graduate students. He said providing information to graduate students, through methods like flyers, is a first step toward getting more graduate students involved with the SA.

“As a senator, I’m constantly fighting for graduate students to make sure they have more representation and to make sure they’re more involved and get more information about what’s going on at GW as a whole,” Link said.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Since students left for the summer, Student Association leaders have continued work to change the Colonials nickname and inform SA senators about the organization’s rules.

## IN BRIEF

### Jack Evans threatened to fire Metro officials during ethics investigation

Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans threatened Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority officials with termination to suppress an ethics probe into his business dealings, The Washington Post reported Friday.

More than 900 pages of internal documents from the Metro Board of Directors ethics committee investigation obtained by The Post reveal that Evans, the board’s chairman at the time, repeatedly chastised Metro General Counsel Patricia Lee and Jennifer Green Ellison, the board’s corporate secretary, for their work on the probe. Evans’ remarks to Lee and Ellison were part of a broader campaign to limit the release of the probe’s results, according to the documents.

Metro ethics committee members released a letter in June revealing that Evans failed to disclose a consulting agreement with Colonial Parking, Inc. while the company sought contracts with WMATA, violating Metro ethics codes. Three days after the letter was issued, Evans told D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson that he would step down from his position on the board and would not seek re-election as chair when his term ended that month.

Ellison, the board’s secretary, told Clarence Crawford, the ethics committee chairman, that Evans told her in May she could be terminated after Lee was fired, according to notes taken by Crawford and obtained by The Post.

Notes from Crawford and Lynn Bowersox – Metro’s assistant general manager for customer service, communications and marketing – reveal that the pair learned about Evans’ threats directed toward Lee about both employees’ jobs by May 8, one day after the ethics panel found Evans had committed a violation, according to The Post.

Ellison and Lee both declined to comment. Evans’ lawyer, Mark Tuohey, and his D.C. Council office did not immediately return requests for comment.

Bowersox told The Post that Lee received phone calls from Evans and Corbett Price, an Evans ally who served on the Metro board’s ethics committee, after Lee drafted a resolution for the Metro’s full board of directors about the panel’s findings at Crawford’s request, according to The Post.

“I was witnessing [Lee] receiving the calls,” from Evans and Price, Bowersox told The Post. “Patty was telling me she was not returning the calls because they were literally harassing.”

D.C. councilmembers voted last month to strip Evans of his Committee on Finance and Revenue chairmanship and to launch an investigation into his business dealings after Evans stepped down from the Metro board. Evans is also the subject of a federal criminal investigation, which prompted federal agents to search his home in June.

Earlier this month, the D.C. Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, which enforces D.C.’s Code of Conduct, fined Evans \$20,000 after the councilmember directed his chief of staff to send emails touting Evans’ political influence to attract potential clients. The D.C. Code of Conduct prohibits councilmembers from using their public office or staff for personal gain.

Should Evans run for re-election for his Ward 2 council seat, he will face five challengers for the position – former Marine Daniel Hernandez, former Barack Obama staffer Jordan Grossman and advisory neighborhood commissioners Kishan Putta, Patrick Kennedy and John Fanning.

—Lizzie Mintz and Zach Schonfeld

# GW should explain its string of University of Miami hires

STAFF EDITORIAL

Welcome to the University of Miami – in D.C.

University President Thomas LeBlanc came to GW in 2017 after serving as Miami's executive vice president and provost for more than 10 years. Since his arrival, GW has lost multiple administrators and filled several open seats with former Miami heads. If anything, the University's hiring pattern raises concerns of nepotism, and students and faculty should take note.

Even if officials' decisions to pull administrators from LeBlanc's former institution are not malicious, neglecting to state why most new administrators come from Miami could lead to speculation about our University president's ties to the school. Hiring LeBlanc's former colleagues could show that he is opting for former friends while overlooking other qualified candidates for jobs like the business school dean and GW's first-ever chief financial officer. By filling vacancies with LeBlanc's previous colleagues, the University is possibly passing on more qualified candidates from different institutions. Officials should be more transparent about their hiring processes and explain why Miami officials are shooed into the University.

Since LeBlanc took the helm, seven Miami employees have joined the team. The list includes Jared Abramson, the vice president for financial planning and operations; Scott Burnotes, the associate vice president of safety and security; Betty Freyre, the director of administration; Mark Diaz, the University's



Cartoon by Jekko Syquia

CFO; Anuj Mehrotra, the business school dean; Donna Arbide, the vice president for development and alumni relations; and Ed Gillis, the interim enrollment manager.

The University should avoid creating trends in hiring decisions. Hiring too many individuals from the same institution could mean officials are overlooking more qualified candidates at other schools. On top of picking officials from the same school, selecting administrators who all have experience at Miami could create less institutional

diversity among the University's top heads. Each new administrator hailing from Miami is a missed opportunity to bring in fresh insight from hundreds of other schools across the country.

Hiring a majority of top officials from the same school would not raise suspicion if officials explained their hires. The University has a responsibility to its students to state why someone from Miami was hired instead of someone from a different institution. If these officials were hired because of their connections

to LeBlanc, the University should not keep students in the dark about it. The University should release information on what led to its decision, including the makeup of the search committee. Officials should also be clear on how many people were considered for the position and how the new hire set themselves apart so that the hire is truly qualified and not one of LeBlanc's preferences.

Sure, Miami officials may be the most willing or comfortable to work under LeBlanc. Their credentials could

be more impressive than other candidates and they could demonstrate the most excitement to collaborate with a University president they know. But the University should still be honest about its hires because of Miami's pre-existing relationship with LeBlanc. Officials cannot rationalize hiring every new administrator from Miami if they are really searching for the most qualified candidate, so administrators should not be afraid to say if the new hires' time at Miami factored into their decision.

If officials do not outline their reasons for hiring a lineup of candidates from Miami, they could create concerns from students and faculty about their intentions. Hiring too many administrators from Miami might lead to fewer diverse voices among GW's leadership because so many administrators are coming from the same place. People with similar work experiences can be an asset to the University: They know how to work together. But the trend could also be a shortfall for the administration because candidates from institutions other than Miami or GW who have different backgrounds and ideas will not get a chance to share them.

The doubt and suspicion around hiring officials from LeBlanc's former university would be cleared up if administrators communicated with students and faculty about their hiring decisions. Until they do, the University is leading its community to speculate on a trend viewed as favoritism.

## Finding community as an LGBTQ student is worth the extra effort

When I first moved to the District, I had an opportunity to get away from home and become part of D.C.'s bustling and diverse atmosphere. As a queer student, I was thrilled. Not only was I leaving the confines of home, I was moving to the city with the highest concentration of LGBTQ individuals in the nation.

Jack Murphy  
Columnist

I grew up in a small town where I was one of the few “out” kids – less than 4 percent of the population in my home state of Connecticut self-identify as LGBTQ compared to nearly 10 percent in D.C. I arrived on campus ready to finally meet LGBTQ people and experience the community's culture in a way I could not at home. But I soon realized that finding community as a queer person is emotionally and mentally taxing. Even in an inclusive city, the perfect community does not just come together.

I needed to work much harder than my non-LGBTQ peers to find a community where I felt safe, but my struggle was worth it.

While the work to find community is more difficult than it is for my straight and cisgender peers, I found that the extra effort is necessary. Nearly 40 percent of LGBTQ people face familial rejection, so finding our chosen family – a group of close friends and mentors considered family for LGBTQ people – helps shape our social circle.

At GW, I realized that an urban campus with limited social space does not lend itself to creating community, which can inhibit anyone trying to meet new people. The campus set-up made finding

other LGBTQ students even more difficult because there are few safe spaces where LGBTQ people can go to be themselves and hopefully, meet others.

The University luckily has several organizations on campus that tailor to the LGBTQ community, but they do not always meet the needs of all individuals. As a non-binary person, I do not feel welcome in groups like Purple Circle – one of GW's newer student organizations specifically geared toward queer men. I sought out the Association of Queer Women and Allies, but that group came under fire last year for a racist Facebook post that led to the resignation of many leaders. There are other groups like Queer Radicals specifically inclusive for transgender and gender non-conforming people, but the organization was not active or large enough for me to build my chosen family. On the other hand, larger groups like Allied in Pride felt overcrowded, making my search for individual connections challenging. After a semester exploring different student organizations, I had met only a few other LGBTQ people – even fewer who I would consider close friends.

I soon turned to the city to meet other LGBTQ people. D.C. is known for having a large LGBTQ population, but the community itself is not racial, socioeconomically or gender diverse. Many LGBTQ residents are white, male college graduates and working professionals – not college students. Most LGBTQ social spaces within the city are centered around bars and clubs, which are typically age-restricted and can feel uncomfortable for LGBTQ people. Even in these so-called safe spaces, it was hard for me to find LGBTQ people who were similar to me in age or stage

of life. I didn't give up there. I turned to dating apps like Tinder and Grindr. While these apps are known to be hook-up oriented, I found them to be powerful tools to connect with LGBTQ individuals, especially for people who identify as transgender and gender non-conforming. I also became a frequent visitor to places like the D.C. Center for the LGBT community and Whitman-Walker Health, which both provide services and social events for LGBTQ people living in D.C., including a transgender support group and a creative writing showcase.

Taking initiative to attend these off-campus events, even the awkward meet-and-greets, helped me establish connections with other LGBTQ people in D.C. beyond my on-campus connections. With a thorough skim of dating apps and a social group at Whitman-Walker Health, I met tons of queer and transgender folks who soon became my closest friends.

As exciting as it can be to come to an inclusive city like D.C., it can be even more daunting to move away from your established social circles at home to start college. I know this from personal experience. But I also know that the hard work I went through to find my people was more than worth it.

It might feel awkward to stand in the corner of a crowded mixer and pretend to send a text, but the potential friendships and community you might find is rewarding in the end. It will not always be easy or fair, but it is worth the time to find your people. College is not just about essays and exams, it is about learning who we are and where we belong.

—Jack Murphy, a sophomore majoring in philosophy, is a columnist.

## Adjusting to college is more important than dating

Freshman year can be both exhilarating and terrifying. You say goodbye to loved ones and break away from parent curfews and rules for the first time, but you also face the pressure to balance responsibilities and form relationships on your own. Some of those relationships may include a significant other, but adding dating to the mix could make the responsibilities more difficult to manage.

Colette Bruder  
Columnist

Dating as a freshman may sound great. But in my experience, entering a long-term relationship was taxing while I acclimated to college life. During my first few weeks of school, I felt pressure to start dating. Everyone I met talked about potential relationships and future hookups, which made dating seem like a college rite of passage. But after a failed freshman year relationship, I knew that was far from the truth. My relationship fractured friendships and led to awkward interactions for the rest of my freshman year when the relationship eventually failed.

While you might not live on the same floor as your former flame, you will certainly run into them during class, on the street or at parties, which instantly creates a person to look out for during the next four years. The consequences of an ill-planned freshman year relationship can go beyond awkward interactions. Balancing a relationship on top of academics, newly formed friendships and jobs can worsen the adjustment to school. Freshman year drained me when I threw a relationship into the mix, and freshmen should know not to make the same mistake.

I am not the only one with a failed attempt at dating freshman year. When one of my best

friends from high school began dating someone during her first week of college, she thought she was in love. The two ate all of their meals together, spent their free time together and coordinated courses to spend more time together. Naturally, she became friends with her boyfriend's friends and struggled to form outside connections. When they broke up seven months later, she was left heartbroken in an unfamiliar city more than 500 miles from home, with few close friends to console her.

Between my friend's story and my own, I knew a serious relationship early in college can have consequences. Most people's first college or adult relationship is unlikely to be their last, and entering relationships freshman year forces students to choose between spending time with their significant other and creating friendships of their own. If my friend had waited to enter her relationship until she was well-adjusted to college, she would have had more friends to console her when things ended poorly.

Some freshmen can have meaningful relationships that last throughout college. If you find a significant other that lasts the whole nine yards, consider yourself lucky, but proceed through freshman year with caution. Find friends who do not know your partner, and prioritize the classwork and extracurriculars you are passionate about. Do not let a significant other dictate the next four years of your college career.

Not all young adult relationships have to turn sour. Relationships can be fulfilling and give a sense of mutual love and commitment. But be careful to enter one during your first year on campus. You will have your entire life to date many people or find your soulmate, but freshman year, you should focus on yourself.

—Colette Bruder, a junior majoring in international affairs, is a columnist.

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**WOMEN'S SOCCER**  
at William & Mary  
Thursday | 7 p.m.  
The Colonials open their regular season on the road against William & Mary, facing the Tribe for the first time since 2014.



**MEN'S SOCCER**  
at Old Dominion (Exhibition)  
Saturday | 7 p.m.  
Men's soccer gears up for its nonconference slate with an exhibition game against the Lions.

The number of rostered freshman student-athletes for the 2019-20 season, down from last season's 125 rostered rookies.

## What's on tap for the Colonials this fall

**EMILY MAISE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

A dozen teams will see action this fall, some of which have previously made post-season appearances, earned conference championships and achieved their highest ever finishes.

Here's a list of who to watch, what to expect and where to find the Colonials on the court or field this fall.

### Women's soccer

Last season: The Colonials boasted a 10-8-1 season record and a 6-4-0 record in Atlantic 10 play.

Where they compete: The Mount Vernon Campus

Player to watch: Redshirt senior forward and midfielder Sofia Pavon, who led the Colonials with nine goals and six assists on the season en route to her second career A-10 Conference First Team selection.

What's on tap: Junior midfielder Alexis Williams will rejoin the team after suffering a season-ending lower body injury. Williams tallied four goals, one assist and 12 shots on goal in seven games of action.

### Men's soccer

Last season: The squad ended its season 5-9-3 and 1-5-2



The men's water polo team strategizes during a game.

HATCHET FILE PHOTO

in conference play.

Where they compete: The Mount Vernon Campus

Player to watch: Junior midfielder and forward Oscar Haynes Brown, who led the team with four game-winning goals and 11 goals on the season, became the first double-digit goalscorer since 2011.

What's on tap: The team will need to replace 2019-graduate and three-year starting

goalkeeper Thor Arne Höfs. Höfs logged nearly 5,400 minutes and made 264 career saves – the fourth-most in men's soccer history. The Colonials tallied their worst conference record since 2010 last year and will look to make a return to the postseason in 2019.

### Volleyball

Last season: The team finished the season 11-15 and 5-9

in A-10 play.

Where they compete: Smith Center

Player to watch: Senior outside hitter Skylar Iott, who paced the team in kills (385), kills per set (3.89) and total attacks (1,216).

What's on tap: GW, anchored by returning libero sophomore Bella Bowman and junior Sydney Welch, ranked third in digs in conference play last season. The

squad also returns four of its six players with 50 or more kills last season.

### Men's water polo

Last season: The squad won its second consecutive MAWP Championships, its first-ever NCAA tournament game and a program-best record of 23-7.

Where they compete: Smith Center

Player to watch: Senior utility player Atakan Destici, who led the Colonials in goals (85) and assists (72) and earned back-to-back All-MAWP-East First Team honors.

What's on tap: Fourteen members of last season's record-breaking team are set to return, including senior center Andrew Mavis and Destici, who combined for about 36 percent of the team's goals.

### Women's swimming and diving

Last season: The team matched its program-best finish at the A-10 Championships with a second-place finish.

Where they compete: Smith Center

Player to watch: Senior Gemma Atherley, who nabbed four medals at the A-10 Championship and earned back-to-back A-10 First Team All-Conference honors.

What's on tap: The squad, which features seven new additions, will be without 2019-graduate Emily Zhang, who led the team to its runner-up finish with seven medals and inked her name in program history with three individual records in the 200 free, 200 individual medley and 400 individual medley.

### Men's swimming and diving

Last season: The squad captured its third consecutive A-10 Championship, setting six A-10 records, rewriting the program record books 11 times and dominating the competition with 14 gold medals.

Where they compete: Smith Center

Player to watch: Senior Moritz Fath, who earned six gold medals and was named the Most Outstanding Performer at the A-10 Championship his junior campaign.

What's on tap: A strong core returns to the squad, including eight First and Second Team All-Conference selections.

**GWHATCET.COM**

for the lowdown on sailing, tennis, golf and cross country



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Members of the women's volleyball team gear up for their next set.

## Class of 2023 rookies to watch for this season

**BELLE LONG**  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Thousands of freshmen will soon flood campus to begin their college careers, among them dozens of new student-athletes ready to bolster the ranks of GW teams. Here are a few freshman players to watch this season as they make their college debuts.

### Baseball: Joe Biancone

Baseball head coach Gregg Ritchie's skilled recruiting has been key to the Colonials' development over the past seven years, and nabbing Biancone for the 2020 squad is another feather in his cap. The utility player from John Jay High School in New York was ranked the No. 1 shortstop prospect and No. 281 overall by Prep Baseball Report. He is one of 13 players in the 2019 recruiting class.

Biancone's experience at shortstop will further cement the Colonials' defense. As a utility player, he can handle all infield positions and provide depth off the bench during an 80-game season. He also has experience on the mound as a two-way player, giving Ritchie further bullpen flexibility. For a team that has experienced its fair share of pitching woes, this extra support could be invaluable.

### Softball: Daniella Wilson

Wilson was a late addition to this year's five recruits, announcing her commitment to the program in mid-July.

Her senior season at Indian Land High School in South Carolina was an offensive bonanza, hitting .645 with six home runs and 42 runs batted in. A two-sport

athlete, she excelled in both softball and basketball and earned seven All-Region nominations between both sports.

Like Wilson, the Colonials also played well last season, earning their first conference championship in program history. But the title was shared with Fordham, which has dominated the Atlantic 10 Conference for nearly a decade. Wilson's offense could give GW the edge needed to beat Fordham and claim the sole conference title.

### Women's soccer: Isabella Buck

Hailing from Washington state, the 5-foot-3-inch forward was named an All-State Honorable Mention. She also ran track and field throughout high school, showcasing the speed and athleticism that enables her offense on the field.

During her senior season, she was made team captain and was ranked fourth in the state among forward players.

The Colonials made it to the tournament last season but were knocked out by VCU in a close 3-2 match. Powerful offensive additions like Buck will help shore up GW's endurance and productivity and could be the difference-maker in tight matches.

Buck joins a recruiting class of four other newcomers.

### Men's basketball: Shawn Walker Jr.

Walker was one of the first recruits signed by new men's basketball head coach Jamien Christian. The two met when Christian, the head coach of Siena at the time, signed Walker before his senior season. Walker decided to follow Christian to GW after he was

named head coach in March.

Christian cites Walker's strong work ethic and elite passing skills as some of the guard's most attractive strengths. Walker's breakout senior season validated Christian's initial signing, when he averaged 21 points per game and led his team to its first conference title in 25 years, earning him the tournament most valuable player.

Walker's ball-handling skills and offense production will improve team cohesion and productivity for the Colonials. For a program that has been plagued with turbulent seasons and mediocre results, new players like Walker could mean a fresh start.

### Volleyball: Sarah Pintel

Pintel joins four new players in the 2019 recruiting class. She spent her time at Cherry Hill High School East in New Jersey accruing several school records, notably setting the single-season record for kills and kills per set in 2018.

Her senior season was the capstone of an impressive high school career, garnering a total of 296 kills that led all of southern New Jersey. In 2018, volleyball carried a .152 attack percentage against its opponents' percentage of .202. Power-hitters like Pintel are a good step toward closing that gap.

Volleyball struggled last season with a 5-9 conference record and an 11-15 overall record, failing to qualify for the postseason tournament. But the team ended the 2018 season on a three-game win streak. Pintel's acquisition could fuel the team's upward trend and sustain the squad's momentum heading into the new season.

## IN BRIEF

### Men's basketball revisits six foes in nonconference schedule

Men's basketball released its 14-game 2019-20 nonconference schedule Wednesday.

The Colonials will see six familiar faces from last season's docket and take on four teams coming off postseason appearances. The squad holds the historical edge in half of its nonconference matchups.

In their worst nonconference performance in 12 years, the Colonials mustered four wins, and fewer than 10 points separated three of those victories. The team opened its nonconference slate on a five-game losing streak and ended its nonconference skid with nine total losses.

The team will match up on Nov. 1 against Division III foe Hood College in an exhibition game at the Smith Center. In the last decade, GW has edged its exhibition competition, keeping its preseason record spotless.

The season will open on the road on Nov. 5 at Towson. The squad marginally defeated the 10-22 Tigers in last year's matchup.

In three straight games, the Colonials will spend a week at home defending the Smith Center against Howard, American and Morgan State.

The Nov. 9 home opener against Howard will kick off the homestand. The Colonials, who hold an 8-1 historical edge, bested the Bisons by six points last season. The Bisons reached the postseason but exited in the first round of the Roman College Basketball Invitational Tournament.

Three days later, the team will host crosstown rival American for the pair's 45th meeting. The Colonials nabbed an overtime win against the Eagles in last year's campaign. American reached the Patriot League quarterfinals and ended its season 15-15.

A Nov. 16 matchup with Morgan State rounds out the homestand. The squad posts a perfect 4-0 record against the Bears, who finished the 2018-19 season 9-21.

The Colonials will then embark on a three-game trip to the Bahamas to compete in The Islands of The Bahamas Showcase.

The tournament tips off on Nov. 22 with the program's first meeting against the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The Roos rounded out their 2018-19 campaign 11-21 after being booted from the Western Athletic Conference quarterfinals.

The Colonials and the Roos will be joined by East Carolina, Evansville, Milwaukee, Morgan State, Rice and 2019 NCAA Tournament participant Liberty.

Three days after Thanksgiving, the Colonials will remain on the road, visiting South Carolina. The matchup kicks off a three-game series with the Gamecocks, bringing the teams to the Smith Center in 2020 and sending the Colonials back to Columbia, S.C. in 2021.

The Gamecocks trounced the Colonials last year, beating them by 40 points and holding the squad to just 27.6 percent from the field.

The Colonials then return home for four straight games against Boston University, Delaware, Harvard and Longwood.

In that stretch, Harvard, the 2018-19 Ivy League runner-up, is the only team to hold a winning record at 19-12. The Crimson ended the Colonials' nonconference season on a sour note last year with a 75-61 loss.

The final game of the Colonials' nonconference slate could prove to be the toughest. The squad will hit the road for a New Year's Eve matchup against Vermont.

Vermont edged GW last season by 16 points. The Catamounts were 14-2 in America East Conference play, nabbed the conference title and competed in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Dates and times for Atlantic 10 Conference matchups have yet to be released, but schedule pairings were unveiled in June.

The Colonials are scheduled for home-and-home series with Duquesne, Fordham, St. Bonaventure, Richmond and George Mason.

On its home court, the squad is slated to take on Davidson, La Salle, Rhode Island and Saint Joseph's. Dayton, Massachusetts, Saint Louis and VCU are on the docket for the Colonials' road schedule.

—Emily Maise

# ORIENTATION GUIDE

## Ways to maximize your time during New Student Orientation

SIDNEY LEE  
CULTURE EDITOR

When the Class of 2023 arrives on campus, they'll experience an orientation that no other student has gone through before.

After putting an end to Colonial Inauguration, officials created a new model that will include more time to spend

with family and peers. In more ways than one, the incoming class should know what to look out for when they enter campus and enjoy a brand new orientation.

**Here's how to take advantage of some of the biggest changes between CI and New Student Orientation:**

### MAXIMIZE YOUR SPARE TIME

The most prominent difference between New Student Orientation and CI is length. The new model will take place over multiple days instead of six sessions throughout June and August.

Between events throughout the day, use every ounce of spare time to meet with people on the floor of your residence hall room and find your way through campus. Using Google maps is often a necessity for a freshman's first couple of weeks at GW, but it shouldn't be a problem now that you've already spent time showing your family around school and checking out campus buildings. You could also use your extra time to find your classes so you don't get lost on your first day of college.

### SOCIALIZE NOW, STUDY LATER

During CI, students would spend a portion of their time sorting out schedules and frantically registering for classes in Gelman Library. Class registration was a constant source of stress during a quick two days at CI, but you shouldn't have to worry this year. You've registered months ago, and you shouldn't stress out before classes have even begun.

International students previously participated in separate programming at the end of August, but making the switch to orient domestic and international students at the same time will give you extra hours to meet people from all parts of the world before classes begin. Most of the programming is geared toward meeting new people and enjoying free food, so take time to make new friends.

### INCLUDE YOUR FAMILY IN FUN

After parent programming was axed in 2017, New Student Orientation will once again include sessions for parents and families to attend. While you may want to flee from your family as soon as you get to campus, savor your time before you part ways.

Some family sessions include a panel discussion for first-generation families, a faculty panel on utilizing academic resources and a session run by the Colonial Health Center named "Parenting for Optimal Well Being." Even if the events feel like a drag, your family will appreciate being part of programming created just for them. You can also spend time exploring the city in between sessions at restaurants or the monuments.

### RACK UP FREE FOOD

The first couple weeks of classes often mean loads of free food, and first-year students can fill up on a few more days of complimentary bites ahead of the rest of GW. On Aug. 22, you can attend the Dining Food Festival from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in University Yard to taste all of the different dining options available to you. The next day, officials are hosting a community barbecue from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in both University Yard and the Mount Vernon Campus quad to help you get to know your neighbors. Instead of eating at the event, be sure to stuff away a few extra bites that you can eat as a snack in your residence hall room.

## MAKE YOUR GWORLD GO THE DISTANCE

RACHEL ARMAN  
REPORTER

Once you arrive on campus, you'll quickly learn that the GWorld system is both a blessing and a curse.

Managing your dollars can be difficult without a dining hall, especially as you transition from home-cooked meals to microwaveable eats and take-out. On the bright side, there are several ways to ensure your balance does not go overboard before the semester ends. Here's everything you need to know to make your GWorld go the distance.

### Get the GET app

Download the free GET app on your phone to help you keep track of your balance, add cash throughout the semester and order take-out from GW dining partners. You can register with your GW email address and connect your GWorld and Colonial Cash accounts to view the two balances. If money is running low and you need to add more cash to your account, you can also transfer money from your debit or credit card to your GWorld card. But the app is best used to set and manage a weekly budget.

### Avoid food delivery

After getting the app, you'll notice an option for food delivery from GWorld partners like Asia 54. Unless you are physically unable to pick up your food, avoid ordering meals because most places that offer delivery are only a short walk away. On top of

the costly delivery and service fees from restaurants, vendors like Asia 54 and Flavors of India mandate minimum totals on orders, which forces you to buy more than you may want to chow down.

### Ask for meal deals

Meal deals are your best friend, but it's sometimes difficult to tell which vendors offer them. The GW-sponsored program allows students to purchase \$6, \$8 or \$10 meals at some dining partners, but always ask a restaurant worker if they hand out meal deals because they are often not advertised on every storefront. Nearly 30 dining partners dole out discounted meals to GW students, including Burger Tap & Shake, Kin's Sushi and Carvings. You can also snag 10 to 15 percent off discounts if you show your GWorld to eight different vendors, including Bertucci's and Chop't Creative Salad Co.

### Go to on-campus events

The most care-free weeks of the semester are at the beginning, but you should still be careful with your GWorld. As student organizations get started, administrators make appearances around campus and welcome students back, and they may also offer you treats to take home. Take every bite you can get.

In your first week of classes, the Multicultural Student Services Center will hold an annual block party for students; religious student groups like Chabad GW, GW Hillel and GW Catholics will host welcome back dinners; and resident advisers in most residence hall rooms run events with free food to get to know their residents.

If you play your cards right, you could walk home with an extra stash of snacks or a satisfied stomach for the evening without pulling out your wallet.



SARAH URTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Invest in a kettle for your residence hall room to whip up items like tea, coffee or ramen noodles.

## COOKING WITHOUT A KITCHEN: MEAL PREPPING IN YOUR ROOM

ANNA BOONE  
STAFF WRITER

If you're used to home-cooked meals, adjusting to the University's dining-partner style meal plan may be stressful.

Freshman residence halls like Thurston and Potomac halls have communal kitchens, but there are obvious drawbacks to sharing a cooking space with hundreds of your peers. The kitchen appliances are often left in sloppy conditions, which could deter even the most motivated college cooks.

But there are still ways to avoid the communal kitchen while keeping your GWorld dining expenses to a minimum. Here are some tried-and-true tips for cooking in the comfort of your own residence hall room.

**What to bring**  
**Dish soap, reusable sponges:** Don't wait until dishes pile up on your desk to wash them. If you purchase dish soap and reusable sponges, doing dishes in a bathroom

sink is not as gross as it seems. As long as you bring your own soap and sponge, you can always carry your dishes to a larger communal kitchen in your residence hall.

**Plates and reusable utensils:** If you want to serve your friends a home-cooked meal, make it BYOP – bring your own plate. You'll likely rely on the same two forks and bowls for the entire academic year, and there is nothing wrong with that as long as they're cleaned in between meals.

**Tupperware:** Whether it's an on-the-go jar for breakfast in your 8 a.m. class or larger containers for leftovers, Tupperware will help limit food waste and keep your food fresh. For those who enjoy meal prepping, whip up overnight oats with milk, frozen berries and nut butter or assemble a batch of pasta salad.

**Toasters and pressure cookers:** Relying entirely on a microwave to prepare meals can make cooking boring. If you can sneak these items

past a resident adviser, bring a mini rice or pressure cooker and a small toaster. With a toaster, you could wrap a sandwich in parchment paper and toast any of your favorite bites for a perfect melt. Rice cookers are useful for a pasta dish. Throw in half of a box of dried pasta, a jar of sauce, water, salt, olive oil and some cherry tomatoes for a meal that will make you feel at home again.

**Electric kettle and french press:** Coffee makers like Keurigs can make a watery mess, so use the space they would take up for an electric kettle. You can boil water in minutes and add tea or instant coffee for a hot drink. You could also use the boiling water to prepare ramen noodles or oatmeal.

### Groceries to buy

**Counter safe foods:** College schedules are busy, and it can be difficult to use all of your groceries before they go bad. Foods like bread, nut butters, dry pasta and jarred sauces – which can be stored at room tem-

perature – will stay fresh longer.

**Frozen produce:** Frozen produce has just as many nutrients as fresh produce and will last months. But if you want fresh produce that is ready to eat when you return from the grocery store, invest in items like citrus, herbs, mango, avocado or onions.

**Single-serving beverages:** Any drinks that you don't use on a daily basis might sit in your fridge until a pre-winter break clean-out session. Instead of buying drinks like milk or juice in half gallons, find the pint size containers and opt for soda in cans rather than large plastic bottles. A reusable water bottle is a must for filling up water at several refill stations around campus.

**Serving a crowd:** If your residence hall room becomes a social hub, serve your friends classic snacks with a twist. You could add mango to your guacamole or dark chocolate and dried cherries to microwave popcorn.





SARAH URTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Whether you're meeting someone for a study session or satisfying your munchies, Carvings is a go-to destination for freshmen.

## FRESHMAN HOTSPOTS TO FREQUENT YOUR FIRST YEAR

**ZILANA LEE**  
REPORTER

Finding places to meet other freshmen may seem challenging on top of finding your way through campus.

While you might find students of all grade levels in places like Kogan Plaza and the Marvin Center, there are a few locations where only freshmen venture for a social gathering or party. If you haven't already, check out some of the most common hotspots where you can spend your freshman year.

### Thurston Hall

Savor every moment in Thurston Hall – this academic year will be students' last hurrah in one of the University's oldest buildings.

Often considered a party dorm, Thurston is far from quiet or boring. If you live on the Mount Vernon Campus or in another residence

hall, find a friend living in Thurston who can keep you in the loop on weekend outings or study sessions. You'll find that the Thurston lobby is often filled with students buzzing in and out of the hall, especially at night when masses of students get together for a night out. If you're in the mood to stay inside, a Thurston party will welcome as many people that can fit. Room sizes range from a double to a six-person room, but you can squeeze in all of your pals in any sized room if you try hard enough.

### Carvings

From french fries to cheese quesadillas, Carvings is your late-night munchie's saving grace. Attached to Potomac House on F Street, freshmen often flock to Carvings to satisfy their greasy cravings and hangovers. You'll likely always run into someone you know in the restaurant, especially

late at night when the place fills up with first-year students returning from a night out. But the restaurant also has some daytime perks. You can grab a booth table next to the window of Carvings and enjoy a studying session with a menu of snacks at your fingertips.

### Fraternity Row

Nothing screams college more than a good 'ole fraternity party. Located a few blocks away from Thurston and Potomac halls, fraternity row allows you to spend a night out of your room without straying too far from bed. Fraternity houses like Kappa Alpha and Sigma Chi – known for its signature oversized red wooden bench – are located along F Street. Sometimes, fraternities ask guests to dress up for themed parties, like white-out, jungle or '80s in Aspen, so bring some themed clothing from your house.

If you opt for a night out at a fraternity house, make sure you travel with a couple of friends. You may still gain access to the house if you show up with a large crowd, but fraternity brothers can spot a freshman from a mile away when they see a mass of partygoers crowding the sidewalk.

### Crepeaway

If you don't want the night to end, Crepeaway has your back. The crepe restaurant, located at 2001 L St. NW, is open until 3 a.m. on Thursdays and until 4 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. You could spend your night from start to finish at Crepeaway, but the best time to show up is just as students are piling in at about midnight. Whether you're spending the night dancing on top of tables and chairs or sitting down for a late-night crepe, you will regularly find people you know singing along to pop hits.

## WHAT STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ADVOCATING FOR BEFORE YOU ARRIVED

**ZEINA MOHAMMED**  
REPORTER

Over the past academic year, students have launched efforts to ditch the Colonials nickname and rename the Marvin Center, and several of those pushes are just getting

started. Take a look at what students have been advocating for while you were in high school and where their efforts stand once you arrive on campus.

### SCRAPPING THE COLONIALS NICKNAME

#### WHAT'S HAPPENED:

Some students have been pushing officials to pick a new nickname for more than a year now, arguing that the Colonials is offensive to international students whose home countries may have experienced the effects of colonialism. After students launched a petition last year calling for a name change, Student Association leaders hosted a panel discussion about changing the nickname to a less offensive moniker and placed a referendum on the ballot during SA elections asking whether students backed the name change. The referendum won the support of more than half of voting students.

#### WHERE THE PUSH STANDS NOW:

Officials have not publicly stated whether they back the name change, but SA leaders said they hope to form a committee this academic year that looks into the feasibility of changing the Colonials nickname.

### CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

#### WHAT'S HAPPENED:

During SA elections last semester, all candidates agreed that the student body lacks school spirit and social spaces. Those who ran for the SA's top posts, including SA President SJ Matthews, called for community-building initiatives like providing students with tap access to all residence halls, offering incentives for first-year students to attend outings and creating a "living-room" style lounge for students to wind down or socialize in the Marvin Center.

#### WHERE THE PUSH STANDS NOW:

While officials added more campus hubs in Kogan Plaza and outside of Gelman Library last year, both Matthews and officials have vowed to create more community spaces in Marvin and add furniture to floors in several residence halls. Officials also allowed all students to receive tap access in all residence halls beginning this fall.

### COMBATTING FOOD INSECURITY

#### WHAT'S HAPPENED:

Food insecurity has been a constant concern on campus since officials implemented an open dining plan in 2016. Later in the year, students opened an on-campus food pantry to help students who were running out of money before the semester ended. Student leaders most recently assembled a task force evaluating ways to curb the issue, drafting a proposal in the spring that calls for the creation of a dining hall and a biannual report on the state of dining at GW.

#### WHERE THE PUSH STANDS NOW:

Officials have not yet stated whether they are in favor of creating a dining hall. But the University has upped the amount of cash on students' GWorlDs every year since the switch to an open dining plan.

### CHANGE THE MARVIN CENTER NAME

#### WHAT'S HAPPENED:

A group of student leaders launched a task force in fall 2017 to examine the "problematic" pasts of several campus building names, paying close attention to the Marvin Center. The building was named after former University President Cloyd Heck Marvin, who supported GW's segregationist policies and was known for religious intolerance in his tenure. But after an unsuccessful first run, SA leaders relaunched the group to involve students, faculty and staff.

#### WHERE THE PUSH STANDS NOW:

SA leaders involved with the revived task force said they would draft recommendations for building name changes, but the group has not produced a report since it formed last fall.

## WHAT STUDENT ORGANIZATION SHOULD YOU JOIN?

**MOLLY KAISER**  
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

### HOW WOULD YOUR HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS DESCRIBE YOU?

- a) The one always ranting about politics or attending a rally
- b) The person who was always helping others
- c) The person who was never without a pen and paper in hand
- d) The tree hugger
- e) The theater nerd

### IF YOU COULD DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN ONE WORD, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

- a) Zealous
- b) Compassionate
- c) Curious
- d) Down-to-earth
- e) Expressive

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE?

- a) Milk (2008)
- b) Forrest Gump (1994)
- c) All the President's Men (1976)
- d) Castaway (2000)
- e) Grease (1978)

### WHAT DO YOU DO AT PARTIES?

- a) Start a conversation with a stranger
- b) Aid the sick party-goer
- c) Document the event on Snapchat
- d) Start party games
- e) On the aux or busting out a tune

### FAVORITE STUDY SPOT?

- a) Library of Congress
- b) Anywhere!
- c) A hip coffee shop
- d) At the monuments
- e) A jazz café

### WHAT'S YOUR TEXTING STYLE?

- a) Long winded paragraphs
- b) Filled with emojis
- c) Brief and to the point
- d) I prefer to call
- e) Lowercase everything

### HOW DO YOU START YOUR DAY?

- a) Listening to a podcast
- b) Using Duolingo
- c) Catching up on the news
- d) Going for a run
- e) Listening to music

### FAVORITE TWITTER PERSONALITY?

- a) Barack Obama
- b) Chrissy Teigen
- c) Ezra Klein
- d) Al Gore
- e) Ellen DeGeneres

## RESULTS

### MOSTLY A'S:

You love politics. You should join The GW College Democrats, the GW College Republicans, GW Feminist Student Union, Young Democratic Socialists of America at GW, Campaign GW or become an SA freshman representative or senator.

### MOSTLY B'S:

You love helping people. Join community service clubs like GW Alternative Breaks, The Store, Camp Kesem at GW and ENGAGEDC.

### MOSTLY C'S:

You love media, writing, communicating and creating. You should join The GW Hatchet, GW-TV, WRGW District Radio, MediaFile DC and Ace Magazine.

### MOSTLY D'S:

You love the outdoors. Join clubs like GW TRAILS, Green GW, Sustainable GW, GW Innovation Center, Green GW, Sustainable GW and Fast Fashion Textile Tech initiative.

### MOSTLY E'S:

You love performing. Join different theater organizations and acapella groups like Forbidden Planet Productions, Generic Theatre Company, 14th Street Players, GW Shakespeare Company, GW Laughs, Sons of Pitch, Troubadours, the Mother Funkers or Sirens.

# A GUIDE TO D.C. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR FRESHMEN

MOLLY KAISER  
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

From shopping in Georgetown to sight-seeing, the District offers plenty of opportunities to explore – but they all come with a transportation fee.

There are multiple transportation options to navigate D.C., including the Metro and Circulator, but deciding on the most efficient mode can be confusing if you're not used to city living.

The Metro could look like a jumble of lines at first, and you may resort to relatively expensive Uber or Lyft rides. To avoid the hefty travel costs, sift through some of the most efficient ways to land on popular D.C. destinations without breaking the bank.



## Best way to get to the U.S. Capitol: Metrorail

The Metrorail, a division of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, is one of the most common public transportation systems in the District.

With a stop conveniently located on campus next to the GW Hospital, the Metro is the best method for traveling to D.C. landmarks like the U.S. Capitol Building in Southeast D.C., the National Portrait Gallery in Chinatown or the National Museum for Women in the Arts in Penn Quarter.

If you're looking to head to the U.S. Capitol or other monuments, hop on the blue, orange or silver lines toward Largo Town Center, stay on the train for seven stops – about 20 minutes – and walk off at the Capitol South station. Then, plug the Capitol Building into your map, and the destination should be about a 10-minute walk away.

While there are downsides to the service like delays and up-charges during rush hour, the Metro will still help you avoid car traffic and cut down

on the cost of travel for your weekend touring excursions. Riders are required to purchase a SmarTrip card from a Metro station to access the trains.

*\$2 per ride during off-peak hours, \$2.25 per ride during peak hours (from opening to 9:30 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m. on weekdays)*

## Best way to get to Georgetown: D.C. Circulator

The Circulator is a lesser-known bus system that, as its name implies, circulates through the District. The Circulator is currently free of charge.

To travel to Georgetown from campus, climb aboard the Circulator on the cross streets of Pennsylvania Avenue and 22nd Street heading eastbound toward Georgetown, a roughly 10-minute walk from Thurston Hall. Depending on traffic, your trip will take between 10 to 15 minutes. Don't worry if you miss the first bus – the Circulator is available every 10 minutes from 6 a.m. to midnight.

Hop off the bus at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue NW

and M Street and you'll arrive steps away from popular shops like Urban Outfitters and Lush and eateries like Sprinkles Cupcakes and Baked and Wired.

## Best way to get to 14th Street: Metrobus

When the Metrorail doesn't quite take you far enough, climb aboard the Metrobus to take you the rest of the way.

The Metrobus has several more stops compared to the rail, which can help you find a destination far away from the Metrorail. While there are several Metrobus stops that can cut down on your time walking, the bus often faces delays and experiences loads of D.C. traffic.

To get to 14th Street – the home of several student favorites like Jeni's Ice Cream, Le Diplomate, Ted's Bulletin and Busboys and Poets – take the Metrorail on the orange, blue or silver lines two stops to McPherson Square. Then, walk a few feet to the 14th and I streets Metrobus stop and take the 52 bus, also known as

the 14th Street line, five stops to 14th and Q Streets.

*\$2 per ride*

## Best late-night ride: 4-RIDE

If you want to trek across campus late at night, the University offers a free ride service from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. seven days a week. Whether you need to get from Gelman Library to Thurston Hall after a late-night study session or need a ride back from Crepeaway, 4-RIDE is your best bet.

The service can take you to any on-campus spot, in addition to a few locations on the outskirts of campus, like the monuments and Washington Circle. The off-campus boundaries include 16th Street through 26th Street and M Street through Constitution Avenue.

You can hail a 4-RIDE by calling the 4-RIDE phone number on the back of your GWorld card or online through the myGW Portal at my.gwu.edu. Be patient when you call the service – it is known for lengthy wait times.

*Free*

## Best way to get to Dupont Circle: Scooter

When the weather is pleasant, an affordable way to get around the city is by electric scooter.

Hoads of electric scooters are parked on campus and around the District. To use one, download the app of some of the most common scooter companies like Lime, Bird or Lyft and enter your credit card information. Then, use the app to scan the code on your scooter, and you can start riding. Electric scooters are an environmentally friendly option to travel because they are battery-operated and don't emit carbon dioxide.

Most scooters are \$1 to start and then cost between 10 and 50 cents for every additional minute of the ride. Taking a scooter is your best bet if you want to travel within a one-mile radius of campus without walking. Some safe locations to take your scooter include Philz Coffee or an afternoon at Kramerbooks & Afterwords Café in Dupont Circle.

*\$1 to start, rates increase per minute*



SARAH URTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR  
Skip the main streets when you're walking through campus. If you need to get to Thurston or Potomac halls, head through Square 80 yard.

## WALK LIKE AN UPPERCLASSMAN WITH THESE CAMPUS SHORTCUTS

ZEINA MOHAMMED  
REPORTER

It's easy to get lost among the city blocks of campus during your first few weeks. You'll soon learn that Google Maps won't always take you the fastest route, and campus walking mostly involves diagonal turns. Here are some go-to shortcuts to help you walk like an upperclassman within days.

### Marvin's exits

Believe it or not, the Marvin Center can buy you time on your walks through campus. Although the Marvin Center's busiest entrance is the staircase facing H Street, two other entrances can save you time entering or exiting this student hub. If you're walking from the School of Media and Public Affairs or CVS, the door facing 21st Street is your quickest route into the Marvin Center. If Whole Foods or the Metro is your destination, leave the building from the back doors that exit onto I Street.

### Cut through campus to get to residence halls

To shave time off of walks to Thurston or Potomac halls, always take diagonal turns. Save yourself steps from Gelman Library to your residence hall room by cutting through Square

80 or Potomac Park, the empty lot next to Tonic on G Street. Walking through Potomac Park will also speed up your commutes to academic buildings like Bell Hall, which is located across the street from the lot.

### When to hop off the Vex

The Vern Express can be avoided once you're an upperclassman, but freshmen must navigate the Vex to get to their University Writing class or residence hall room. The Vex, which departs from the Foggy Bottom Campus in front of Fungler Hall, makes its first stop on the Mount Vernon Campus at the quad by Somers Hall and then drops off students by Eckles Library.

Unless you're looking for Eckles Library or the soccer field, don't wait to get off at the second stop. You can walk up the hill to Ames Hall if that's your destination, and the other academic buildings are relatively close to the first stop.

For students who are traveling from the Vern to Foggy Bottom, be aware of two stops. The first stop is on E Street, near the Elliott School of International Affairs and Thurston and Potomac halls. The bus's final destination is Fungler Hall, which is the quickest way to get to buildings at

the center of campus like Duques Hall or Gelman Library.

### Cutting through District House

In addition to housing several dining vendors, the District House basement offers a shortcut between H Street and I Street. If you're heading to Peet's Coffee from Kogan Plaza or vice versa, cut through the building instead of walking around the entire residence hall. The shortcut is also helpful during inclement weather, like snowy or rainy days.

### Cutting through Kogan Plaza

Being practically in the center of campus, cutting through Kogan Plaza can speed up your route to almost any academic building. For students coming from Thurston or Potomac halls, you can take the adjacent alley by the fire station into Kogan. Students coming from the direction of Bell or Corcoran halls should walk through the 21st Street entrance to Kogan and take the exit out of the plaza in the direction you are heading. The third entrance faces District House and is an easy way to get from District or the Marvin Center to buildings like Duques or Fungler halls, which are located on 22nd Street.

## PERKS FOR FIRST-YEARS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRESHMEN ONLY

ARIELLE OSTRY  
STAFF WRITER

As a freshman, you may feel like you're back at the bottom of the totem pole.

That might be true, but there are still some benefits that come with being the new kid at GW. Before your freshman year draws to a close, take advantage of events and programs designed to help you explore D.C. and grow academically in your first year on campus.

### District Connections

Officials debuted District Connections earlier this year aiming to help first-year students familiarize themselves with the District. The program, which shares free events that students can sign up for around D.C., has offered freshmen tickets to shows at the Kennedy Center and tours around the monuments since its launch.

The Class of 2022 also enjoyed several group outings including a Nationals game, a show at Fords Theatre, the D.C. Comedy Festival and the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade – all for free. Events organized by the program are led by a staff or faculty member along with a student leader. All you need to do to participate is register online. Every week, you will receive an email

about the event that week.

### Dean's seminars

Dean's seminars are three-credit courses with relatively small class sizes – usually capped at about 20 students – open to freshmen only. The classes feature one-of-a-kind topics like fairy tales and substances and society. Dean's seminars can often count for multiple General Education Curriculum requirements, and you'll have the luxury of working closely with a professor and your classmates.

This fall, you can enroll in seminars like "Zombie Capitalism," "Substances and Society," "The Anthropology of the Cell Phone" and "Hollywood and Politics." If you are having trouble finding open courses or are taking one too many science labs, consider taking advantage of a class you can only take during your first year at GW.

### Eat out with more GWorld

Believe it or not, freshmen have more GWorld than any other student on campus. GW gives residents without a kitchen – about \$2,375 per semester – about \$22 per day – compared to the \$1,525 given to mostly upperclassmen with kitchens in their residence hall rooms. A larger pool of dining cash is your excuse to eat out more,

socialize with your peers and try a bite of every on-campus establishment.

You can enjoy several sit-down meals that accept GWorld, including Flower Child, Bindaas and Kaz Sushi. The restaurants may seem pricier as your GWorld dollars decrease after freshman year, so treat yourself to filling sit-down meals while you still have the cash.

### The Eckles Prize for Freshman Research Excellence

While essay contests like the Julian Clement Chase Prize and Undergraduate Essay Contest: Reflections on Research and Scholarship are open to all undergraduate students, the Eckles Prize for Freshman Research Excellence is a competition restricted to first-year students. Judges evaluate research essays based on the students' use of resources, like archives, books and academic papers, made available by GW Libraries.

If you enter the competition before May, you have a chance to win up to \$500 and present your research at an awards ceremony the following fall semester. Winning papers are also added to GW's institutional repository, an online catalog that provides free, public access to scholarly works and research authored by GW faculty, staff and students.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO  
You can enjoy free events at the Kennedy Center through the District Connections program for first-year students.

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